The Highlander

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INSIDE: HIGHLANDERS GO TO THE POLLS PAGE 5 **FREE**

HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson hopes to extend Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden, with an application to add a new wing with 98 beds going to the Ministry of Long-Term Care next month. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Plan to move LTC to Minden

HIGHLANDER FEATURES

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has confirmed plans to move all Highlands' long-term care beds to Minden in the next five years.

CEO Veronica Nelson said an application to expand from 62 beds at Minden's Hyland Crest to a 160-bed facility will be submitted to the Ministry of Long-Term Care (LTC) by the end of March. If approved, HHHS will close the 30-bed Highland Wood home in Haliburton.

The project would be a significant expansion of the rebranded Minden Health Hub site, with a new LTC wing to be built on the eastern portion of the property. Nelson said it would connect to the existing Hyland Crest.

It's estimated the project will cost at least $49 million, with Nelson saying the general rule is $500,000 for each new LTC bed.

"Having two small homes is not sustainable," Nelson said. "We're looking at consolidation and expansion. What that looks like is yet to be fully determined… it makes sense to expand Minden… adding 98 beds there is a lot less expensive than building 130 beds in Haliburton.

"This is just a plan at this point – nothing is set in stone. The ministry obviously has a say in it, but what we're looking at is putting everything together at one site," Nelson added.

She said the Minden hub sits on approximately 9.5 acres, about two acres more than Haliburton, so would be a better fit for the build.

Continued **'Nelson'** on page 3

Highlander news

HHHS focuses on stability

By Mike Baker

Haliburton hospital president and CEO, Veronica Nelson, is pleased with the direction HHHS is headed, with 2024 marking a period of stability following years of uncertainty through the COVID-19 pandemic.

After reporting a $2.3 million deficit at the end of the fiscal year in March 2024, Nelson said the hospital's financial position has improved "markedly" since. At the end of the second quarter Sept. 30, the deficit was $700,000.

Nelson will be providing results from Q3 to the board Feb. 27. While she couldn't provide a number as of press time, she said, "we are in a much better position. We have received some one-time funding to help offset some pressures."

A big reason for that, Nelson said, is the much-reduced use of agency staff. As of the end of Q3 on Dec. 31, 1.82 per cent of all HHHS workers were agency staff, compared to 11.5 per cent at peak use in June 2023.

A report by Ontario's auditor general in 2023 noted the average pay for registered nurses was $40.15 per hour, while the average hourly agency rate was $97.33. Nelson confirmed most of the agency staff HHHS utilized were nurses.

Recruitment has been a major focus, with the organization bringing in an additional 142 part-time and full-time staff since June 1, 2023 – the date of the Minden ER closure. Nelson said there have been 32 nurses, 22 PSWs, 10 allied health workers, and 67 other team members hired.

"We've made significant inroads, but still have about 18 to 20 vacancies," she said, noting the hospital is working with Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Trent, Nipissing and Brock universities, and Loyalist and Fleming colleges on training programs for nurses and PSWs.

The hospital has also hired two new full-time and one part-time doctor at its emergency department, with a third full-time hire arriving in July.

"The contract is signed – we're really excited about him… and we've got another one on deck who wants to be here full-time as well," Nelson said. "Those two additions would fill our emergency department complement of positions… I don't know when that last happened."

Patient volumes have increased since the Minden ER closure, but Nelson said wait times for an initial physician assessment have been stable at two-and-a-half hours from March 31 to Dec. 31. For that same period, there has been 5,415 visits to the urgent care clinic in Minden, up from 4,479 from when the clinic opened June 29, 2023 to the end of the previous fiscal year.

> *"We've made significant inroads, but still have about 18 to 20 vacancies."*
>
> ***Veronica Nelson HHHS CEO***

Since launching CT services last spring, the hospital has scanned more than 2,200 patients, with 43 per cent of those emergency procedures, Nelson said.

"Given the nearest CT is in Lindsay, having this machine saved 183,000 kilometres of driving for patients, families and EMS. This has been an amazing addition."

With mammography services beginning last week, Nelson said the next focus is installing a new x-ray in the ER. There will also be construction for a new mental health crisis room, which Nelson said will "offer a safe place for patients and staff to work while in crisis."

HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson, says visits to the urgent care clinic in Minden are up. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

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Highlander news

Nelson says build could take three to five years

Continued from page 1

HHHS communications lead, Lauren Ernst, said if LTC beds are rerouted to Minden, the current Highland Wood site would be retrofitted as an extension to the Haliburton hospital. She said it would be used to build the capacity of acute care and inpatient services.

Ernst said demand for LTC beds is high, with the wait for Highland Wood over 300 days, and for Hyland Crest over 700 days and for Extendicare over 470 days.

"We know our County needs more long-term care beds, and that is our goal," Ernst added.

Nelson said the expansion would have no impact on other services at the hub, including the urgent care clinic, operated by the Kawartha North Family Health Team, and services such as physiotherapy, bone densitometry, GAIN programming for seniors, and outpatient x-ray.

"We're actually continuing to expand those services," Nelson said, announcing a new gynecology clinic will be opening in April. "It will be for physician referrals, or self-referral if people don't have a family doctor."

Bonnie Roe, lead of Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands (ATAC), said the news of consolidating and expanding in Minden is bittersweet.

"Like any change, one can choose to see this plan as an opportunity or not. Could this new build be the creative alternative many seek? Does it make sense to consolidate all LTC beds in one location to provide optimum care? From a financial and staffing perspective this has huge advantages," Roe said.

"An obvious negative will be for the residents that will have to move in three-to-five years from their home, which will be very traumatic."

Master plans underway

A community forum on the future of LTC in the County will be held at the Minden facility March 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. It's the second of a three-part engagement series to share plans on HHHS' master planning process.

A Feb. 19 event provided updates on HHHS initiatives, recent achievements, and future projects. A third session on the future of acute care is March 26.

Nelson said the idea is to keep the public up to speed with plans for HHHS' two facilities and allow for input into priorities.

"We're concurrently doing two master plans – one for the hospital, and one for LTC."

Master plans are mandated by the Ministry of Health, with HHHS doing both the near term (five to 10 years) and far out (15, 20, 30 years). They must have plans to access capital funding.

"We haven't had many changes [to acute care] and we need to make some to give us the capacity we need for the next 10 years," Nelson said, with the population in HHHS' catchment area expected to increase by 22 per cent over the next 20 years. "This is the way we step back and think about what services and programs are needed in the County now and in the long-term. It's a long process, but an important one."

There's no timeline for submission on the general hospital plan, but Nelson said the aim is to have the LTC file done by end of the fiscal year, March 31.

Bonnie Roe, lead of Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

It typically takes between 12 and 18 months for ministry approval. "Then it would take about two years to build something the size we're looking at. So, it could take – with the waiting – three to five years for this project," she said.

HHHS reps off to the Netherlands to study LTC models

By Mike Baker

HHHS is looking into ways to provide specialist care for people with diseases such as dementia.

CEO Veronica Nelson, board chair Irene Odell, and chief nursing executive, Jennifer Burns-West, are visiting the Netherlands in April to tour several green care farm operations.

They'll be joined by board member Sharon Kaasalainen, a professor at McMaster University, who has spent years studying the unique approach.

An alternative living arrangement for people with dementia, the facilities typically have fewer residents – between six and eight – who live together in a homelike environment. Support staff are responsible for organizing daily activities, and personal and medical care.

> *"What we don't want is to build an institution."*
>
> ***Veronica Nelson, HHHS CEO***

Nelson said HHHS is looking at how to incorporate the approach, and others, into the new facility.

"What we don't want is to build an institution. That's why we're learning and going to see these farms. We hope to build an innovative LTC home where we don't lock folks up that have dementia and Alzheimer's, where they can live freely, where they can participate in regular life chores and activities and really build that rural aspect into the home.

"We're learning and looking to our partners in the community to help form what that looks like in Canada – it's a little bit different than Europe, where they don't get the snow we do… but it's something we're focusing on," she said.

Bonnie Roe, lead of Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands (ATAC), said HHHS has an opportunity to be a leader in Canada for providing innovative care models for seniors.

"There's the Butterfly, Green House, Eden Alternative, Green Care Farms - all principles based on care being person-centred, home-like and composed of smaller groupings of units," Roe said. "Staff connect with the person, based on interests, needs, and feelings - not on a routine that works for the organization."

She said HHHS staff have already incorporated some aspects of the Butterfly model in Minden and Haliburton.

Roe feels the County is fortunate to have Kaasalainen collaborating with HHHS on a collective vision for LTC and rural dementia care.

"She was instrumental in organizing this trip to glean first-hand knowledge from colleagues in the Netherlands so that it can be incorporated philosophically and structurally into the new building plans at Hyland Crest," Roe said.

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Highlander news

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

North Shore Road rebuild

Algonquin Highlands is going to tender for the reconstruction of a 2.2 kilometre stretch of North Shore Road, with public works director Adam Thorn estimating the project could cost around $3.2 million and take two years to complete.

Speaking at a recent council meeting, Thorn said the repairs will directly impact homeowners between St. Peter's Road and Generation Trail.

"This has been a long project, started quite a few years ago… we have been progressively looking at the road and coming up with cost-effective solutions for repairing sections classified as a slump section," Thorn said, noting there are four problem areas abutting Maple Lake.

Initial analysis and a report outlining conceptual rehabilitation options has been completed by Jewell Engineering, who earlier this month were retained for a further $90,000 to develop detailed bid documents for circulation to contractors.

The project is split into two parts – slope stabilization of shorelines along the lakefront and road rehabilitation. Thorn said he's hopeful the first phase can get underway this summer.

Likening the project to the one completed along Hwy. 118 entering Haliburton village in 2022 and 2023, Thorn said the plan is to install shot rock along the sloped shore descending into the water and stretching two metres above the normal water level to prevent erosion.

Trees, shrubs and native vegetation will be planted over the rocks to create a more natural look, Thorn said. He noted residents along that stretch with structures going to the water, such as stairs and docks, will have to remove them until work is complete. He couldn't estimate how long people would be without water access.

"We will try to give as much information as possible and work with people as best we can," Thorn said. "We'll try to make things as smooth, efficient and painless as possible."

The road will be reconstructed using a mix of granular material (30 millimetre) and asphalt (60 millimetre), with an estimated paved width of 7.5 metres upon completion.

Thorn said he will pursue grant opportunities to widen the road for pedestrians and cyclists, which could add another $500,000 to the final budget.

Once the tendering process is complete and all submissions reviewed, Thorn said staff will present results and recommendations to council, likely in early spring.

"This is a pretty substantial project, probably one of the largest we've done at Algonquin Highlands," he said. "We're expecting this to be a two-year project."

Flag request

Council will debate the merits of installing a second flagpole outside town hall during budget deliberations, set to get underway Feb. 27 and 28.

The move could pave the way for the township to fly flags honouring various causes in future. A request to erect a flag marking World Autism Day April 2 was denied last week.

"We don't have a second flagpole and there are regulations around [flying] the Canadian flag," said mayor Liz Danielsen.

Clerk Dawn Newhook said the township did fly the flag marking Human Rights Day in December, but only for one day. She noted staff is working on a policy that would establish consistent rules for flag-flying.

Danielsen noted the township had caught flak for not erecting the Pride flag last year. She suggested council hold off flying any more flags until a new policy has been presented.

An example used by AH public works director, Adam Thorn, showing what the shoreline along a 2.2 kilometre stretch of North Shore Road will look like once a two-year rehabilitation project has been completed. *Photo courtesy of AH.*

Sticking to guns

Despite calls from the Canadian National Fireworks Association (CNFA) for council to abandon its plans to limit the use of fireworks in the township to a single day, council stood strong Feb. 20, approving a new amended bylaw.

Aleem Kanji, representing CNFA, criticized council's plans to only allow fireworks to be used on Canada Day saying, "there are other days of celebrations where they're widely used, too."

Previously, the township had permitted fireworks on Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve, Civic Holiday, and Labour Day. A survey completed last year found 61.3 per cent (423) of 690 AH-based respondents were in favour of a complete ban.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux asked Kanji if he believed fireworks should be allowed at public zoos, to which he replied no.

"We live in a place of pristine natural beauty… comprising 90 per cent Crown land with relatively intact ecosystems that you don't see elsewhere in southern Ontario. It's tantamount to living in a zoo," Dailloux said. "I'm glad [we're amending] our bylaw… fireworks have many detrimental impacts."

Under the new rules, fireworks can be used on Canada Day between 8 and 11 p.m. If the holidays fall midweek, they can be used either the weekend before or after, depending on which is closer. Anyone wanting to put on a professional display must seek approval from the township.

Fines for illegal use are $500. *(Algonquin Highlands briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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ZOO TO YOU IS COMING TO MINDEN

Get the chance to interact with animals at the Minden Arena (55 Parkside St.)! Join us on Monday March 10th from 9:00am-10:30am for youth aged 4-15 years old. Cost: $7.50. Pre-registration to secure spot is required.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

Permanent Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator
Temporary Full-Time Community Services Operator
Summer Students: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Centre

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (7 Milne St, Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

February 27 – Regular Council Meeting
March 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings in-person or via the live-stream link.

NOTICE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the agenda items from the cancelled February 13, 2025, Regular Council Meeting will be placed on the Regular Council Meeting agenda scheduled for February 27, 2025. Note this does not include public meeting PLZBA2024071 which will be rescheduled

Items that will be added to February 27, 2025, agenda include Regular and Closed Agenda Items.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

Agnes Jamieson Gallery: The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Art Exhibit – The Land Between on display until March 15. Over 100 pieces to see from Artists Grades 1 to 8. A selection of work from our permanent collection is also on display, including pieces by Andre Lapine.

PA Day Open House: Join us on Friday, February 28 to explore Nature's Place, and to get creative with crafts 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Don't miss the free screening of The Mighty Ducks (1992) from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, co-hosted by the Cultural Centre and the HCPL – Minden Branch. Light refreshments will be available, and you are welcome to bring your own snacks.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

When an emergency vehicle is approaching from any direction with its flashing lights, or siren or bell sounding, you are required to bring your vehicle to an immediate stop. You are required to bring your vehicle as near as is practical to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Your vehicle should be parallel to the roadway and clear of any intersections, including highway on/off ramps. Some firefighters and volunteer medical responders may display a flashing green light when using their own vehicles to respond to a fire or medical emergency. Please yield the right-of-way to help them respond to an emergency call quickly and safely.

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Today's the day for election hopefuls

By Mike Baker

A Feb. 19 candidates debate in Lindsay was an all-business affair, with six of the nine provincial hopefuls in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock (HKLB) discussing plans to bolster the economy.

Gene Balfour (Independent), Jacquie Barker (New Blue), Alison Bennie (Liberal), Bill Denby (Freedom), Barbara Doyle (NDP), and Tom Regina (Green) shared their platforms and answered questions posed by the public.

The event was hosted by the Lindsay District Chamber of Commerce and Lindsay Downtown BIA, with approximately 150 people attending.

Asked about protecting small businesses should U.S. president Donald Trump push forward with 25 per cent tariffs on most Canadian imports, Regina said the Greens will create a 'Protect Ontario' fund to assist those "disproportionately impacted.

"Creating a tariff taskforce working across party and jurisdictional lines to negotiate with the U.S.," Regina said. "We have to create an investment tax credit to unlock business investments here, develop a 'buy Ontario' strategy and implement public procurement supports."

Doyle said the NDPs would also provide "structured assistance" to some industries, though felt the tariffs present an opportunity for Canada to become more self-sufficient.

"In our riding, we have room for growth. We can go after new industries – there are lots of people facing layoffs in the U.S… they're looking for somewhere to go. Why not here? We can go after manufacturing and bring business to our area," Doyle said.

Balfour, a long-time advocate for less government oversight, said tariffs will provide entrepreneurs the opportunity to reimagine their business models; Bennie said she was in favour of a "coordinated response" to fight back, feeling Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie can "stand up to Trump."

Denby and Barker believe the best response is finding a way to appease Trump to avoid tariffs being implemented.

When asked what their parties would do to drive more business to Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County, Doyle said investing in housing and public transportation, to make the area more attractive to large-scale industry and manufacturers, was a top priority.

Candidates Barbara Doyle (NDP), Gene Balfour (Independent), Alison Bennie (Liberal), Tom Regina (Green), Jacquie Barker (New Blue) and Bill Denby (Freedom) attended a debate in Lindsay Feb. 19. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Bennie said the Liberals would cut taxes for small businesses, freeing up capital to expand; Regina noted the Greens would target "the $2 trillion clean economy" – for renewable energy technology, electric vehicles and low-carbon solutions aimed at combating climate change - taking advantage of the province's natural resources and geography to become a global leader; with Denby also calling for more local manufacturing.

Barker said the New Blues would reduce the provincial sales tax from 13 to 10 per cent, with a long-term goal of scrapping it. She also wants to eliminate the provincial carbon tax, which she feels is to blame for some Ontario-based industries relocating elsewhere.

"It targets large manufacturing sectors like auto plants, steel mills, cement makers, chemical plants, and oil refineries. These companies are required to pay compliance incentives to the government, and it will cost them over $2 billion by 2030, so guess where our industries are going, to [other countries that] don't charge," Barker said.

All candidates other than Barker, who said the New Blues don't have a policy addressing it, supported removing provincial barriers for free trade.

Quizzed on finding ways to improve childcare options and affordability for parents who want to return to work, Balfour and Denby said they would find efficiencies in "non-essential" government sectors to fund more local centres.

"We need to downsize government, do an internal audit at Queen's Park. I bet we can save billions that would totally fund a childcare program for people," Denby said.

Regina said the Greens would increase wages for childcare workers, making the job more attractive to ensure facilities are adequately staffed; Doyle said the NDP would support the federal government's plan for $10-a-day daycare; while Barker said offering tax breaks and other supports would enable people to stay home and care for their children longer.

Commenting on the dismal voter turnout in 2022, Regina said all parties and prospective politicians play a key role in getting more people engaged in politics.

"We've got a bunch of grandmas and grandpas up here on stage, talking to a bunch of grandmas and grandpas in the audience… we don't have enough voices at the table," Regina said. "We need to think differently, find ways to get people on board… this is time for electoral reform… it's not right that 18 per cent of the voters can give 60 per cent of seats to a party that will have 100 per cent of legislative power."

Today is election day with polls open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Highlander news

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A MESSAGE FROM

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Join us for a

Succession Planning Panel

March 19, 2025
5:30-7:30pm
The Link
5152 County Rd 21

No matter your industry or stage of business, hear from experts about creating, refining and executing your business' succession plan.

Register at thelinkhaliburton.ca/events

Cohosted by:

Haliburton County Development Corporation

BDC

Haliburton County Home Builders Association

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce

HE assets pegged at $116 million

By Lisa Gervais

Consultants for Highlands East have determined the township has $116 million in assets.

PSD Citywide's Jasmine Shadd presented the findings to a Feb. 11 council meeting.

The province has mandated that municipalities must have asset management plans.

The biggest assets are: roads, at $46 million; buildings at $38.5 million; the water network at $7.6 million; bridges and culverts ($6.4 million); vehicles ($6.3 million); sanitary network ($5.4 million); machinery and equipment ($4.6 million), and land improvements ($1.4 million).

They found 51 per cent of infrastructure in 'fair' or 'better' position, with the overall average condition coming in at 44 per cent 'fair.'

Getting a 'very poor' rating were some of the water network, vehicles, machinery and equipment, land improvements, buildings, bridges and culverts.

"Based on the current replacement cost of the portfolio, the average annual capital needs over the lifecycle off all assets total $4.4 million," the consultants said.

They noted there is now a gap of more than $2.1 million a year to reach that and the township will have to collect more money in future.

Shadd noted Highlands East is not alone in having such a gap.

"Most municipalities across Canada do not have adequate funds to keep up with annual infrastructure needs. Addressing these annual funding shortfalls is a difficult and a long-term endeavour."

Mayor Dave Burton asked if it was normal for buildings to be valued so high, at $38.5 million. Shadd said buildings are costly to replace.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall noted, "we are in a timeline where dollars for taxpayer purposes are extremely difficult to do. Everybody is struggling with budgets." He said he was looking for a proactive maintenance program, "to look at how to prolong the life of assets in a cost-effective way."

Shadd said that is not something her company does; but townships do.

Ryall noted the County has established a 1.5 per cent levy per year to help with future infrastructure costs. He said it was something for Highlands East to consider.

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton asked about the replacement value of buildings. *File.*

Ratepayers see 5.96 per cent hike

Highlands East is poised to pass its 2025 budget when council next meets March 11.

Brittany McCaw, CAO/treasurer, told a special council meeting Feb. 19 that the township was looking at an overall spending increase from the 2024 budget of $534,237.

"This equates to a 5.96 per cent municipal tax rate increase," she said.

It's a hike of about $33.38 per $100,000 of residential assessment.

McCaw said factoring in the County and education budgets, the overall impact is a 5.11 per cent jump.

"This budget is the culmination of careful planning and consultation, reflecting our commitment to remain productive and forward thinking while ensuring we address the monetary needs of the municipality and our ratepayers," McCaw said. She added there were many rising costs beyond their control, including the pending impact of U.S. tariffs.

McColl's bridge replacement

Council accepted the tender from McPherson Andrews Contracting Ltd. for $470,075.90 plus HST to complete the proposed work on the McColl's bridge in the 2025 budget year.

Public works operations manager Perry Kelly said they got six bids.

He said the project was first identified in 2023, after the 2022 bridge inspections determined, "the structure needed immediate repairs to keep the bridge open. A replacement was deemed necessary through those inspections from the engineering firm that completed the 2022 bridge inspection."

Work was done in the winter of 2022 to secure the structure until the municipality could work towards the replacement of the bridge. They are using existing abutments to save money.

Kelly said the winning bid is less than the 2025 budgeted amount of $667,000 for the total project.

Helping turtles

Highlands East is going to help the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative with $700 of in-kind donations.

The conservation group had asked the municipality to provide signposts with hardware and municipal staff time to install turtle crossing signs.

Think Turtle is looking to have one or two sets of signs on Dyno Road, and one on Lewis Road.

Council approved the request.

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Quick update to let you know that we've changed printers (notice how great the colours are) Because of that, the paper will be delivered a little later on Thursdays.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The Highlander Team

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County debates future chambers

By Lisa Gervais

A plan to move County council chambers across the road from the County building at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden - as well as renovating the existing headquarters - was hotly debated at council Feb. 12, as it comes with a $1.6 million price tag.

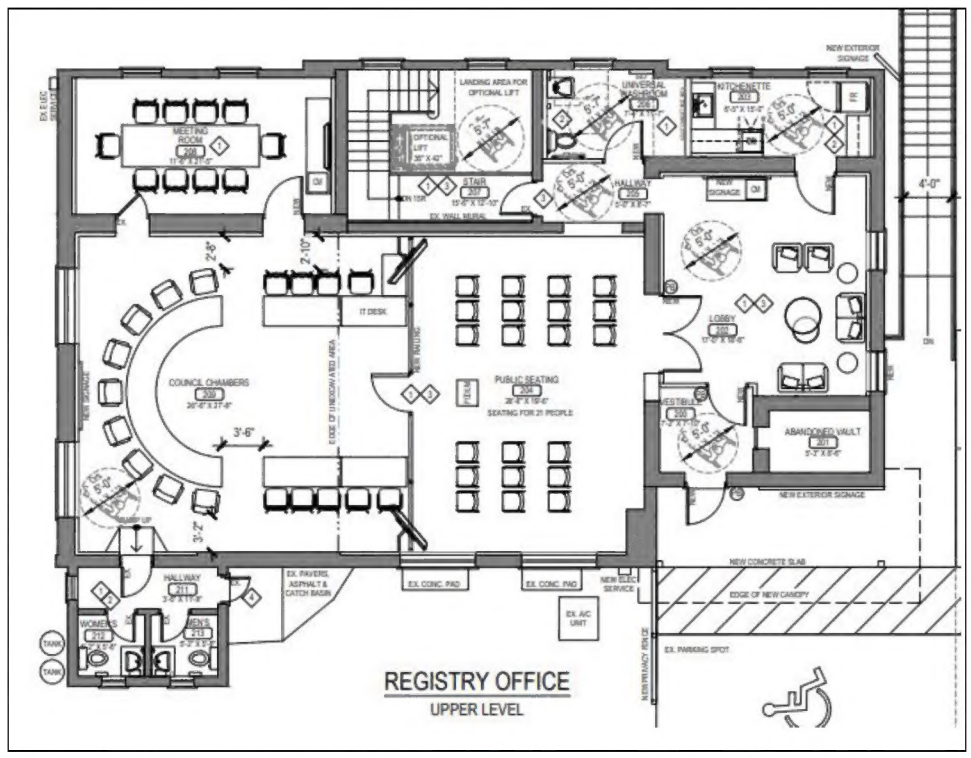
While County staff and politicians have been talking about using the vacant Land Registry Office across the street for a new council home for some time, their first glimpse at floor plans for the new space caught some councillors off guard.

The office closed, along with 43 others across Ontario in 2020, following a move to online property records.

The first floor features the new council meeting space, with a public gallery for 21 people. There is a separate conference room; a kitchenette and lounge, and two sets of washrooms. It would be accessed by stairs and a lift. There would also be a ground floor level with office and public spaces. CAO Gary Dyke said it has been determined they would not be able to use the basement area.

Dyke told the meeting that staff and their consultant, Tessier Design Corp., were readying to put the job out to tender with a hope of starting construction at the end of May and moving in, in early October. He said $1.2 million would be funded by the department, with a little over $420,000 from safe restart and modernization funding. Council approved the money in the 2025 budget.

Dyke said the existing building at 11 Newcastle St. has a number of accessibility issues, and, "we are running out of space. We have very limited meeting space in the building."



Blueprints of the proposed new County council chambers. *County of Haliburton.*

'Boondoggle'

After coun. Jennifer Dailloux and deputy warden Liz Danielsen referenced aesthetics of the refurbished space, coun. Murray Fearrey queried the whole project. He said they were talking about spending more than $1 million; and while he had heard about moving council chambers, "it's the first time I've ever seen a drawing on it. There are alternatives, there were, … it's more efficient to have the council chamber in the building where you have your staff. To me, this is a boondoggle." Fearrey added other options, such as selling the Land Registry Office and extensively renovating the existing headquarters had not been discussed. He said he had a lot of questions and thought they should put the item on hold.

Coun. Bob Carter said they approved putting the project into the budget; knowing it would not affect 2025's budget. But, after seeing the floor plans, he said, "I am concerned about the cost." He added he felt it was premature contacting vendors about detailed pricing, "if we're not going to approve it."

Carter said 11 Newcastle St. work is needed, but across the street optional. He noted the five townships are talking about working together more, and there could be amalgamation, so it had to be determined if there were too many, or too few offices.

Dyke said they had not discussed possible renovations at 11 Newcastle St. with council, but the idea of moving the council chambers into the former Land Registry Office "was always discussed." He conceded other elements, such as offices, had not.

But Coun. Cec Ryall said the current building, "as it sits right now ain't doing the job…there needs to be something done." However, he said he has to be able to justify the spending of $1.6 million to taxpayers, so would need the rationale, and benefits, for the changes. He also asked if it made sense for Minden Hills to also use the new council chambers. Dyke said a shared council chamber was a possibility. He noted there would be more community space.

Dailloux said "the blueprint moment is a big moment for the brain." She said she recalled directing staff about a two-building option at budget, so was worried council was pulling the rug out from under staff, "doing what they were asked to do." She felt decisions about office space, etc., were operational.

Dyke said they could come back with more specific information, and council received the report for information only.

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

New family doctor

The County of Haliburton, and Haliburton Highlands Family Health Organization, say Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian will be joining the healthcare team at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre as of March 1.

In a press release, the County said Dr. Kayoumedjian first came to Haliburton in 2023 to explore practice opportunities as a locum physician. She said, "I immediately fell in love with the town and, most importantly, the community. Never in my life have I worked in a place where I have genuinely felt happy to go every single day. The community is filled with kind and warm people, and it would be my honor to serve this community as a family physician for the next two years."

Dr. Kayoumedjian will take on patients from Dr. Tina Stephenson, who retired in 2023. She will not be accepting new patients.

County Warden Dave Burton welcomed Dr. Kayoumedjian and expressed his enthusiasm that she has chosen the region to work as a family physician. "Thanks to the hard work of our physician recruitment team, the residents of Haliburton County will gain better access to local health care," he added.

Dr. Kayoumedjian attended medical school in the Caribbean at Saba University School of Medicine and completed residency in Buffalo, NY. She is originally from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Successful investment year

Director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, had good news regarding council's investments in 2024 when she presented to the Feb. 12 County meeting.

She said 2024 had been a "very successful" year.

The County holds three different types of investments with Local Authority Services (LAS) ONE investment. Robinson noted their high interest savings account generated $363,344.09 as of Dec. 21; their Canadian Corporate Bond Portfolio $23,466.35, and Canadian Equity Portfolio $124,905.96.

She noted the County has $12.5 million in investments – earning $1,141,094.99 in interest at year end.

Coun. Bob Carter said it was "terrific news." He said the program had been worthwhile for the County. "This really helps us in our budgets."

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

Feb. 28 Winter Folk Camp - learn & experience - hosted by Haliburton County Folk Society

Mar. 1 Nick & Benton - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Sir Sam's Ski/Bike

Mar. 1 Winter Folk Camp - Concert - Live Entertainment - Feat. Katherine Wheatley, Thom Lambert, and Cara Luft

Mar. 2 Mixed Bag - Live Entertainment - Hosted at the Dominion Hotel

Mar. 2 Winter Folk Camp - Concert - Live Entertainment - Feat. Coco Love Alcorn, Rob Lutes, and Caroline Brooks

Mar. 3 Winter Folk Camp Learn & Experience - Hosted by Haliburton County Folk Society

Mar. 6 Mighty Jerome - Documentary Screening Hosted at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Mar. 6 Fall Job and Volunteer Fair - Hosted at Haliburton Legion

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Have your say

By Mike Baker

There's a lot to unpack in today's *Highlander* regarding plans and operations at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS).

Notably, the organization is looking to consolidate its long-term care services to Minden, essentially shuttering the 30-bed Highland Wood in Haliburton in favour of a bolstered unit at Hyland Crest.

It's something we've heard murmurs about for months, but now it's been confirmed, with hospital president and CEO Veronica Nelson saying the plan is to submit a proposal for a 92-bed addition in Minden by the end of March.

The project, earmarked at around $49 million, has to be ratified by the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Though Nelson's hopeful of a five-year turnaround, this is far from a done deal. The results of this week's provincial election will play a major part, no doubt.

It's interesting that the word "consolidation" was used by Nelson to describe the move, especially given the sensitivities that remain following the closure of the Minden ER 18 months ago.

One wonders if this was the organization's plan all along – to establish Haliburton as the primary emergency site, and Minden as the main care home for seniors.

The previous hospital administration claimed staffing shortages were what drove them to the decision to close Minden's ER. The overarching message was the community would be better served by one fully staffed and operational ER than clinging to two facilities that, according to HHHS officials, were constantly in danger of temporary closure.

According to Nelson, HHHS has hired 142 new staff over the past 18 months – including 32 nurses, 22 PSWs and four ER doctors (three full-time and one part-time). She says wait times for patients were stable at two-and-a-half hours for much of last year.

By the numbers, it appears the decision has had positive results. Being careful not to compare the two situations, Nelson indicated similar factors were at play when deciding upon this LTC merger. Comments like, "having two small homes is not sustainable," and "we're looking at consolidation and expansion," is sure to give some a case of déjà vu.

A community forum has been scheduled for March 5 in Minden, where Nelson said she wants to hear how locals feel about the proposal. It was indicated the session has been planned specifically so staff can adjust the LTC application if something worthwhile were to be raised.

It will be interesting to hear how the Haliburton community feels about potentially losing one of its long-term care facilities. Granted, the effect is nowhere close to the same as losing an emergency department, but we wager it will create a certain level of concern and angst, nonetheless.

After inheriting a circa $4 million deficit when she joined as interim CEO in summer 2023, Nelson has made great strides reducing that number over the past 18 months. As of Sept. 30, HHHS' debt had shrunk to $700,000. We're hearing it could be gone completely by the end of this fiscal year on March 31.

If the staffing and money situation surrounding the LTC sites follows a similar path to what we're being told is happening with emergency services, then perhaps this is positive news.

One thing we do know is that Nelson and her team seem to have learned from the mistakes of their predecessors. It's encouraging they're bringing this news to the community and offering opportunities to provide feedback before the application is submitted.

This is your chance to be heard, County residents. The session is happening in person March 5 at the Minden Health Hub, with virtual access at hhhs.ca/master-planning.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

No time to babysit

Joyce Jones is the quintessential retiree. How did she possibly have time to work pre-retirement?

When Jones left her childhood home in the Bay of Fundy's Grand Manan Island for university, the move to the city of Moncton, New Brunswick was startling. But the shift to the Greater Toronto Area for her career was an even bigger "OMG moment."

She eventually adjusted well enough to the hectic urban life to raise her twin daughters with her husband, Derek. But when she retired from her CFO position with an HVAC company in Burlington, she knew it was time to retreat to an area that reminded her of home - Haliburton County.

Jones discovered the Highlands years earlier as part of snowmobiling weekends and instantly felt the community spirit she missed from childhood. Jones and her husband purchased a home on Grass Lake in West Guilford in 2019 and moved in May of 2020, just in time for COVID lock downs. During that time, they weren't able to have visitors but kept themselves busy renovating the basement, installing new floors and painting.

Before retirement, Jones and her husband agreed upon one rule, not to join anything requiring a commitment. Previously, they had busy careers and were active curlers so they didn't want to be tied down by schedules and responsibilities. They wanted to be available for travel opportunities. And, since moving to West Guilford, Jones is rarely home, not necessarily traveling, just always away - out and about in the community.

The couple enjoy snowmobiling in the winter and golf in the summer. While her husband is off playing pickleball, Jones could be in a variety of places, including volunteering at Snowflake Meadows animal shelter on Ritchie Falls Road, or helping to organize the West Guilford Snow Shuffle. Jones laughs as she describes the fun of the West Guilford February fundraiser, saying she "sometimes doesn't recognize some people dressed up with clean clothes and a bit of makeup."

Jones also organizes an annual golf tournament in memory of a dear friend who passed away from cancer. The couple manage to squeeze in time to visit grandchildren in the Guelph area as well as travel in their Fifth Wheel to see car races down south.

And as if they weren't busy enough, Jones was inspired to make use of the extra space in their home and became a billet for the Haliburton County Huskies. Once assured hockey equipment would never come home, they welcomed a teenaged hockey player from Florida. No worries her new billet's parents wouldn't know where West Guilford was because the

Joyce Jones. Submitted.

player's parents had already met a West Guilford cottager in Texas while at a beach volleyball tournament. The billeting experience has allowed Jones to meet even more "wonderful friends" in Haliburton.

While she sometimes wishes West Guilford was a little closer to her grandchildren, Jones quickly brushes that aside with a laugh because, for her living in Haliburton County means "there is no time to babysit."

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Randy Moratz caught this cute moment of his granddaughter, Nessie, feeding peanuts to a chickadee.

NATURE'S CALLING

A winter wonderland to remember

By Toni Cooper

February has always been a month of transition; between the depths of winter and the first hints of spring.

But this year, it transformed into a magical winter wonderland that transported me straight back to my childhood. The sheer volume of snow that blanketed towns was unlike anything I had seen since I was a kid. In fact, I couldn't help but reminisce about the last significant snowfalls we experienced. This February, the snow fell thick and fast, creating a picturesque landscape that made my heart swell, and at times made me shake my head thinking when will this snow stop.

As the snow piled up, I felt the surge of excitement and an undeniable urge to relive the winter joys of my youth. I gathered some of my closest friends for a much-needed girls' weekend and to celebrate my 50th birthday, eager to embrace all the fun that this winter wonderland had to offer. Our first order of business? Tobogganing. We raced to the hill, laughter echoing through the cold crisp air, and down we went. Oh, what fun it was.

There's something exhilarating about hurling down a snowy slope, the wind whipping past while you scream with joy. Each run was more thrilling than the last, and we found ourselves reliving the carefree days of our childhood, if only for a moment. The fresh powder made the perfect playground, and we spent hours enjoying it. It was definitely a reminder of how important it is to embrace the simple pleasures in life, especially during the enchanting winter months.

As the end of February approached, I was thrilled to head back to Lake Nipissing for another girls' fishing weekend. The frozen lake with a lot less snow was a sight to behold. Armed with our fishing gear and snacks, we got things set up and starting fishing, hopeful for a bountiful catch. However, as the hours passed, it became clear the fish were not eager to bite. It was slow, to say the least.

But it didn't dampen our spirits. Instead, we turned our focus to the warmth of our laughter, and the joy of being together. We shared stories, and some hot chocolate while our giggles filled the air even louder then the wind outside. We made the most of our time together, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

With the fishing slow, we focused on the beauty of our surroundings, the tranquility of the frozen lake and the joy of each other's company. As we packed to leave on Sunday, I couldn't help but feel grateful for the snow that had brought us all together, reminding us of the importance of friendship and the sheer delight of embracing life's moments.

February may have been a winter wonderland but it was the laughter, tobogganing, and the shared experiences that truly made it magical. We received much more snow than normal, and at times it made it very difficult to get around, but remember, we need the snow. Once it melts, it helps fill the rivers and lakes, which were getting low. Snow may also revitalize soil by restoring nitrogen and sulfur.

Remember to get outdoors and enjoy everything nature has to offer.

LETTERS

Stay in your lane, municipalities

Dear editor,

It was with interest that I read that local municipalities have decided to get into the energy business by providing EV chargers at their facilities.

They should stay in their lane and leave it to the private sector to provide these. Tesla for years has been collaborating with property owners to provide chargers at retail outlets and in other commercial properties on a subsidized basis. Recently, Ford Canada advertised a program where they will pay for a home charger installation as an incentive when you buy one of their elective vehicles.

There is no reason for municipalities to get into the energy business when they have other issues to deal with, including the housing shortage or their rotting infrastructure.

Leave the EV charger installation to the private sector, which will install them where and when required. Municipalities need to stay in their lane, spending their time and our money on programs that better our community, not a few.

Peter Wilmott
Algonquin Highlands

No objection to kennel

Re: Dysart pondering dog kennel

Dear editor,

I am the closest neighbour to Monique Popp's place and her proposed kennel and I have no objection to it.

When they moved here, they told us what they planned.

Ross Atkinson, who is opposing the idea, moved here about six months ago, and he is not a permanent resident.

He states that this is a residential area, I don't know where he got this idea.

The previous owners of the Popps' property had two horses, a goat, ducks, chickens, as well as two dogs and cats.

Atkinson is concerned about the noise of dogs barking. Well, how is he going to feel about me chainsawing about 200 metres from his back door, on our property? We have been producing maple syrup here for approximately 50 years and require a lot of firewood to do so.

Will Atkinson want us to shut down?

He estimates he would lose $100,000 If he sells. Did he pay too much for the property?

William E.R. Beatty
Haliburton

READ THE HIGHLANDER ANYWHERE...

Highlander business

Redmans Records 'hub' for music scene

By Mike Baker

Wendy Lingard and Kelsey Redman are the two-person team behind the rebranded Redmans Records on Highland Street in Haliburton. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

While it wasn't quite what she had in mind when setting the goal to be her own boss after graduating from the Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) several years ago, Kelsey Redman said the chance to become sole owner at Russell Red Records was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

The lifelong musician completed a deal to take over the Highland Street business in Haliburton on Feb. 1.

She's taken a month to decorate the space, which is undergoing a slight rebranding. Moving forward, the downtown storefront will be known as Redmans Records.

After serving as manager since April, Redman said it was a feeling of "right place, right time" when former owners Dan Manley and Collin Burke decided they wanted out.

"I always thought I'd be an artist selling my work, or a musician doing live performances as my income source – getting into retail has been interesting, but I like it. It's been a really fun job working with music every day," Redman told *The Highlander.*

She's been a full-time County resident for 14 years, first moving to the area in 2011 to enrol at HSAD. By 2018, she had run the gamut at the arts-based college, completing all 12 courses – including artist blacksmithing, glassblowing, ceramics, jewellery making, and photography.

Redman has 10 certificates and two diplomas from her time at HSAD, where she was also a technician and faculty member.

She credits the institution with facilitating connections and friendships with people who are helping her through this new chapter in life.

Enter Wendy Lingard, who spent several semesters at the school throughout the pandemic – some under Redman's tutelage. The pair have been reunited at the record store, with Lingard working part-time and assisting with decorating – painting the interior to the same colour scheme as HSAD – and helping with stock and customers.

A member of the Highlands Chamber Orchestra, the Haliburton Highlands Wind Symphony, and Highlands Swing Band, Redman said she hopes to inspire people to pursue their passion for music. She plans to start selling cut-price instruments to help those who otherwise may not be able to afford to play, particularly youth.

"When I was 10, I could never afford a double bass – I had mine gifted by my math tutor in high school. That's the instrument I still play today. Things such as tubas, I only recently bought my first one at an auction," Redman said. "I think it would be so cool to find used instruments and get as many of them into kids' hands as possible."

She's also planning to purchase an espresso machine, wanting to turn the record store into a hangout spot for locals. There will be other refreshments, including baked goods, available come spring.

Redman also has a growing collection of vintage vinyls with roots in the County she's hoping to build on – tracks from the 1967 Hal High Glee Club, live recordings from The Rockcliffe, *North to Carnarvon* from The Jeff Barry Band, and pieces by Johnny Burke, the Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer who was a staple of the Highlands community from 2007 until his passing in 2017.

"These records are like little pieces of history, I love collecting them. I'm always finding new stuff whether out in the community, or online. It's a pretty niche thing, but it's fun seeing how much I can collect," she said.

While remaining open during renovations, Redman is planning a full launch March 1. The storefront is open Wednesday through Sunday.

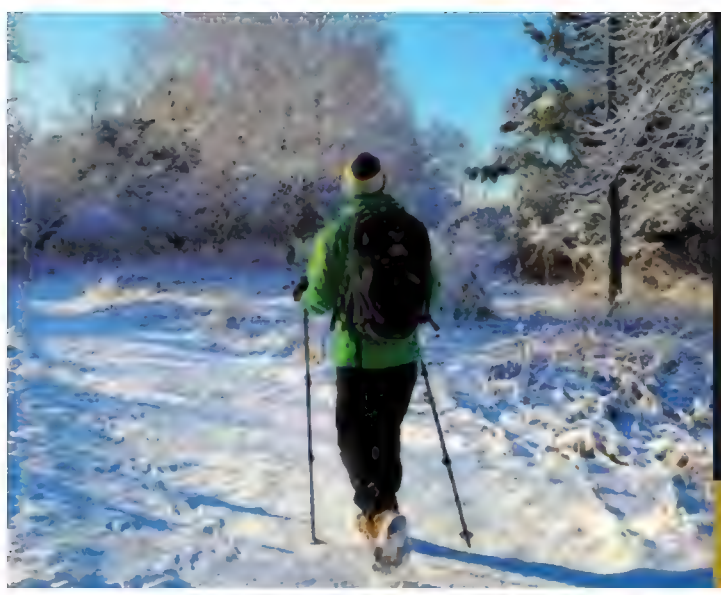
"I'd love for this to be the spot where musicians come just to hang out, to keep up with what's happening… I'd like to have a database here of people in the County that can help with teaching instruments, repairs. Almost like a one-stop shop connecting all the dots of the different people on the music scene," she added.

Highlander arts

Walking in a sculpture wonderland

The Haliburton Sculpture Forest hosted a winter wonderland walk and snowshoe through the forest Feb. 22. With dozens of people showing up, Barb Bolin and Erin Lynch led everyone through a big loop around the sculpture forest at night. Many of the different pieces were explained as the large crowd enjoyed the stroll around the forest. *(Justin Belanger)*

Top left: The wonderland crew posing for a picture in the 'Atmo-Sphere.' Above: 'I See a Wish' with falling snow. Middle: Guide Barb Bolin giving insights to the sculptures. Far left: A fantastic turnout for an evening stroll'. Left: Bolin talks about 'A Walk in the Woods in Haliburton.'
Photos by Justin Belanger.



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Highlander events

Special Olympians and Huskies on a roll

On Feb. 19, Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympians teamed up with the Haliburton County Huskies for a fun afternoon of bowling in Minden. The Olympians and hockey players were put into teams and had a great time at the annual event, hosted at Fast Lane Bowling. *(Justin Belanger)*

Top left: Kelsey Barnum and Dawn Piercey having a great time. Top right: Stefan Forgione puts a sweet shot down. Above: Christopher Strype holds up his first-place ribbon. Above middle: Skylar Pratt lays down a perfectly centred shot. Above right: Sarah Hudson watching her ball hit the pins. In the pin: top, Mary Ann Stammers puts some English on the ball. Bottom: Jason Kitchener lines a shot up. *Photos by Justin Belangar.*

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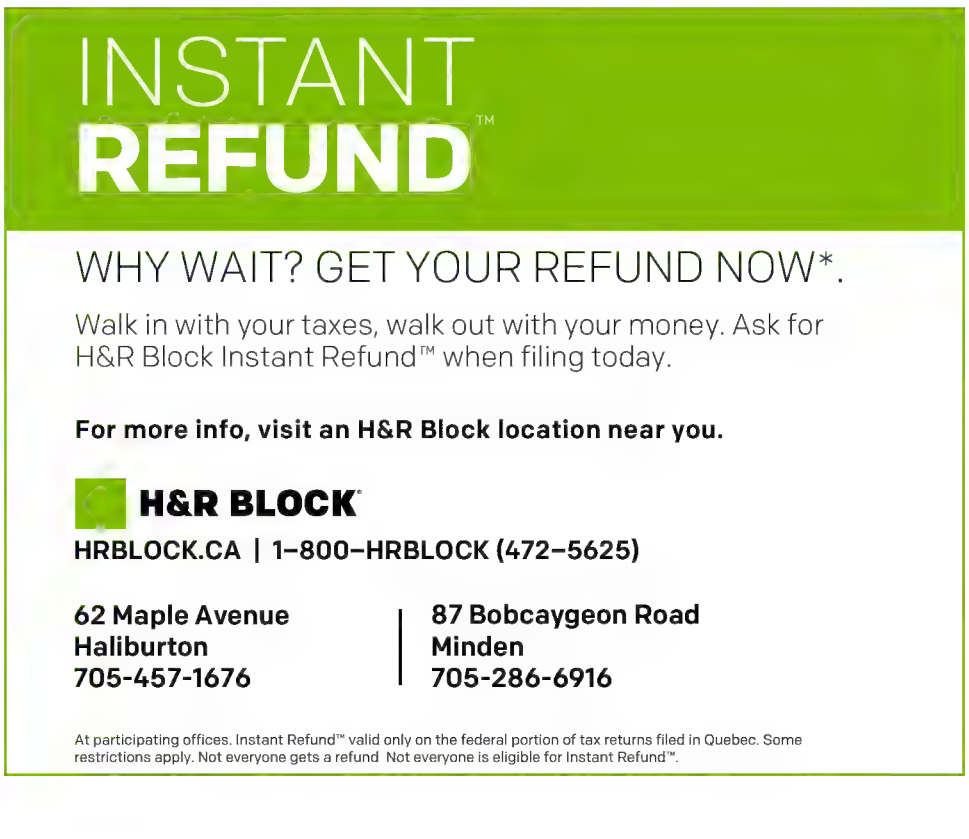
Highlander events

Snow Shuffle returns to West G

The West Guilford Snow Shuffle made a return this past weekend, thanks to a proper winter season. The Feb. 22 snowmobiling event featured riding, lunch, dinner and a dance.

Right: Big winner, Dave Alexander, left, takes $350 home from the 50/50. Inset: Kevin Sisson keeps on calling out names for prizes. Bottom right: Jess Hannah,left, wins a grab bag. Bottom left: DJ Sassy warms up the crowd.
Photos by Justin Belanger.



Home of the Highland Storm

STARS of the WEEK

TRAVIS HUTCHINSON

Travis was a wall this past weekend, stopping everything coming his way. Travis' consistent momentum to stop the opposing team from getting to our net is key to the team's success.

FELIX DART

Felix's ability to get to the net and make himself open makes him an unstoppable driving force, racking up the points for the Storm.

ANDER BROWN

Ander's ability to move the puck up ice, and make key passes is why he is a leader in assists and a key playmaker for the team.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

SCORE BOARD

- **Feb. 18** U11 Carquest Minden vs Kawartha 4-1 L
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Sturgeon 8-4 W
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 2-2 T
- **Feb. 19** U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Sturgeon 2-1 L
- **Feb. 20** U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Brock 3-2 W
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 4-1 W
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Sturgeon 4-3 W
- **Feb. 21** U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Kawartha 3-1 W
- **Feb. 22** U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Lindsay 5-1 W
- U11 Carquest Minden vs Mariposa 7-1 L
- U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Durham 6-2 L
- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Brock 4-3 W
- **Feb. 23** U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Lindsay 9-5 L
- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Sturgeon 4-3 W
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 4-1 W
- U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Kawartha 7-3 W
- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Durham 7-5 L

Left: James Hamilton dekes out Muskies on his way to a goal. Right: Jaxon Pelley makes his way past two defenders. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Storm fry visiting Muskies

It was an early morning start for the Highland Storm U9 MD team as they hit the ice versus the Lindsay Muskies Feb. 22.

Though it was bright and early, the team was wide awake.

The game started with the Storm coming out in full force. Despite strong defence by the Muskies, the fish were unable to stop our strong forward lines with the first goal going to the blue and white; who finished the first period with a 1-0 lead.

The second period started just as strong; 32 seconds in, another unstoppable goal for the Storm. This was the first of the period followed by two more in the back of the net, ending the second 4-0. The crowd held its breath in the last seconds as the Muskies had a shot on net, but we were saved by the bell and the refs waved it off.

Going into the third, the Storm did not slow down. The defence remained strong and resilient, showing no mercy. Though the Muskies snuck a goal in half way through the third, they were no match for the Storm, who put two more in the back of the net, making the final score 5-1.

A huge shoutout to the entire squad, for playing as a team, making great passes, and trying their absolute hardest every shift. *(Submitted)*

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The Huskies

This past Saturday, Ty Petrou scored a natural hat-trick in just eight minutes of the first period to propel his team to a 5-1 victory over Markham. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Two more games – then post-season for Huskies

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies played their last regular season game of the year at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena Feb. 26 [the result against the North York Rangers was not known as of press time] and will finish their season with road tilts Feb. 28, against the Trenton Golden Hawks, and March 1, versus the Toronto Patriots.

Sitting on 79 points in the competitive east conference, good for third place behind the Golden Hawks (95 points) and Toronto Jr. Canadiens (85 points), the three games will determine who the blue and white will square off against in the first round of the playoffs – slated to run March 7-20.

The Huskies have continued their hot hand, winning eight of their last 10 games – including weekend wins over the Markham Royals and Stouffville Spirit to put them on a five-game win streak.

Huskies 5 Royals 1

This past Saturday, Ty Petrou scored a natural hat-trick in just eight minutes of the first period to propel his team to a 5-1 victory over Markham.

His first came at 10:44 on the powerplay, his 24th of the season, from Nathan Poole, with his 50th helper, and Cameron Hankai (assist number 37). At 16:34, the scoresheet was repeated, with another powerplay marker from Petrou (number 25 on the season), from Poole (51) and Hankai (38). Petrou completed the sweep at 18:29, his 26th goal, from Poole (52) and Chase Del Colombo (8).

Coach Ryan Ramsay said he had never experienced a natural hat-trick in such a short time frame of a game. "There's always a first for something. It was great for him, and his confidence. He has a great shot. We want him to shoot more, so it just shows."

He noted it was a four-assist night for Poole, who would not have been far off Patrick Saini's point total record, set last year (94), if not for missed games due to injury. Poole is fourth in league scoring.

The Royals solved Tyler Hodges for the only time in the game at six seconds of the second period. However, Raine Nadeau notched his first at 1:49, from Kieran Litterick (6) and De Jesus (24). Then, De Jesus tallied his 27th, from Hankai (39) and Poole (53) to seal the deal.

There was no scoring in the third as Hodges recorded the 5-1 win, turning aside 24 of 25 shots.

Huskies 4 Spirit 3

Sunday was a closer affair with Haliburton and Stouffville trading goals early on.

De Jesus put the Huskies up 1-0 at 4:53 of the first, his 28th, from Litterick (7) and Oliver Tang, with his first assist. At 11:05, the Spirit answered back.

Petrou opened the scoring in the second frame, his 27th, from Poole (54) and Del Colombo (9), but the Spirit tied it.

Stouffville took the lead early in the third, but the Huskies answered back with two of their own: Del Colombo (5), from Poole (55) and Kaiden Thatcher (15) and then Stefan Forgione fired in the game-winner, his fifth, at 11:48, from Noah Lodoen (16) and Litterick (8). Stephen Toltl turned aside 28 of 31 shots for the win.

Playoffs

In readiness for the playoffs, Ramsay was expecting to sit some of his top players for this weekend's road games. "Don't want them to get hurt," he said.

On a five-game win streak, and winning eight of 10, Ramsay said confidence is high going to home ice advantage.

"We played Stouffville Feb. 23. They should be coming in fourth, one place behind us. We had four of our top nine forwards out and a top defenseman and we beat them. And they needed to win. So, it just shows the depth that we have."

It's the best regular season the Huskies have had since moving to the County for the 2021-22 season. They are up to 39 wins, with more expected in the last three games of the season. They recorded 36 victories in 2022-23.

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Junior highlanders

HHSS Nordic Hawks fly at OFSAA in Sudbury

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Ski team competed at the Ontario Federation of Secondary Athletic Associations (OFSAA) championships in Sudbury Feb. 20-21, with three podium finishes.

Coach Karen Gervais said the team, which trains at Glebe Park, "was faced with a different challenge on the mostly flat and rolling trails, but found their glide on the snow and once again produced some very strong race results."

Left: Annika Gervais glides to the finish line. Above: The senior girls' sprint relay team captured seventh after a close race. *Photos Submitted.*

In the interval start distance races, junior girl Annika Gervais had her best race of the season over the 5km course, making the podium with her seventh place finish out of 105 high school division skiers.

Winston Ramsdale was the top finisher in the junior boys' high school division (34th), followed by Tristan Humphries (39th), Eric Mueller (52nd), Brady Hamilton (62nd); and Jack Sharp (105th) in a field of 120 skiers. The team finished 12th in the overall team standings out of 19 teams.

The senior girls' squad was led by Erika Hoare, who also skied her best race of the season, finishing 16th on the 7.5 km course, which featured more climbing than the junior loop. Violet Humphries followed (21st); Olivia Gruppe (36st); Grace Allder (40th); Ella Gervais (48th); Teagan Hamilton (49th) and Hannah Sharp (54th) of 104 skiers in their division. The team earned a seventh place finish to take home some purple ribbons.

In senior boys' action, Brechin Johnston led, finishing 25th of 133 skiers. Evan Backus was 39th; Graham Backus 48th; Owen Megrah-Poppe 95th and Carter Sisco 108th. The team were 10th in the standings of 19 schools.

On day two, teams raced in the 4 x 900m sprint relay. Gervais said, "all teams skied very competitive races, and managed to hold their spots in the team standings."

The junior boys' team of Ramsdale, Humphries, Mueller and Hamilton finished 10th. The senior boys fought hard with Gervais saying, "Evan Backus skillfully avoided competitors and crashes in the lead leg, jostling for space with 10 other teams in the heat. Megrah-Poppe and Graham Backus skied solid middle laps and Johnston fought hard in a very competitive anchor leg."

The senior girls of Gruppe, Gervais, Hoare and Humphries was the only team to ski their way into the final.

"They skied passionately hard in the final, knocking nearly 20 seconds off their heat time to close the gap significantly between them and sixth-place rival Lo Ellen Park from Sudbury, but just could not catch them at the line," Gervais said. They maintained their seventh-place position for another podium finish.

"The skiers represented Haliburton with excellence and integrity," Gervais said on behalf of fellow coaches Mike Rieger, Joleen Thomas and Kevin Hoare. They thanked graduating students, Hoare, Sharp and Hamilton for "their leadership and commitment and helping to grow the Hal High Nordic Skiing program over the few last years."

There were also thanks for the groomers at Glebe Park.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Community Member Recruitment for 2025/2026

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered

Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca **by March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

What's on

Poking fun at locals and cottagers on Canoe

By Mike Baker

Third time's a charm for County cottager Alyssa Diamond, who will see her new Highlands-themed play *Rusticals and Cidiots* debut on CanoeFM next week.

The production is a collaboration with John and Rita Jackson, who both star in the feature and present it during their twice-monthly 'Radio Playhouse' slot on Canoe. Part one will air March 5, with a second act pencilled in for April 2.

"Without giving too much away, it's all about city folk coming into rural Haliburton and all the interesting scenarios that creates," John Jackson said. "Listeners will be able to identify with a lot of the issues the play addresses, things like short-term rentals, shoreline rules. It brings all of those things into focus."

Diamond, who lives in Toronto, penned the piece last summer after participating in the Rural Rogues playwriting course in Haliburton. The group, launched in 2017, enjoyed the play so much they committed to turning it into a live-action production. Jackson, a long-time member, said there was going to be a performance in Glebe Park, but they couldn't get a cast together in time.

The Rogues pivoted, planning a show at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, only for spacing constraints to scupper things again.

"The author was obviously very disappointed the show didn't get its run… so Rita and I thought, 'why don't we put it on the radio'," Jackson said.

John and Rita Jackson will star in a locally-inspired play, *Rusticals and Cidiots*, airing on CanoeFM March 5. *Submitted.*

It took approximately six weeks of edits for Jackson and Diamond to transition the play for the airwaves.

"It's quite a different dynamic. You lose the visual dimension and all the nuances that go with it – the props, the set, the audience participation. So, you have to try and recreate those components in some other way using voice," Jackson said. The biggest change is the introduction of a narrator, played by Norma Bingham. "She will help fill in the blanks."

The Jacksons will bring the Clarke family – or the Cidiots – to life, with Rita playing Claire, John taking on the role of Connor, and Gracie Griffiths playing their daughter, Chylee. The Rusticals will be performed by Kate Butler, playing Andrea, Doug Tindal, playing Ted, and Jordan Kovacs, their teenage son, Ted. Bylaw officer Jarvis Laidlaw will be played by Bob Stiles.

The first act will air for an hour and will cover the Clarkes arriving at their new cottage for the Victoria Day long weekend, where they're greeted by their neighbours, the Brooks family.

"We get into all the friction that's quickly established, these new city folk arriving on the lake and disturbing the local family who have had their little spot forever and all the shenanigans around that," Jackson said. "Then things happen during the course of the summer and we arrive back for part two around Labour Day, when the Clarkes are shutting up the cottage to go back to the city."

Jackson said a phone interview with Diamond, discussing her inspiration, will air prior to the first act.

It will be the first "live" performance of the year for Radio Playhouse, albeit pre-recording at Canoe. Those shows are typically booked for the first Wednesday of the month, airing at 6 p.m., with the third Wednesday dedicated to classic pieces from the 1930s-50s, Jackson said.

He noted Rural Rogues are hoping to put on an in-person showing of *Rusticals and Cidiots* at Glebe Park this summer. For more information, contact kbutler@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com.

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What's on

Artist in residence to expose creativity

By Lisa Gervais

Jen Mykolyshyn had a framing job for Scott Walling at The Space gallery in Haliburton – but ended up doing a month-long artist in residence that will culminate with a show March 1.

She recalls having a conversation with Walling about the art she likes to make, but her apprehension about sharing it.

"Through discussion, this became an opportunity," she said of the residency. At the time, she wasn't making a lot of art at home, but when she was, it was in isolation.

While somewhat out of her comfort zone, she was excited at the prospect of making art in the gallery space, with people wandering in and out.

Enter gallery owner and former Haliburton School of Art + Design employee, Walling.

"I have always had an affinity for helping other artists follow through a process or get a different perspective. And I had the space and I didn't have anything planned. Jen came in and started talking to me about some of her ideas and I went, 'oh, I can make this a thing'." The artist residency concept was birthed, with Mykolyshyn being the first.

She set up shop at the beginning of the month.

From Walling's perspective, he said he has helped to "bring her back out of trying to hone things in too much. Getting too small with things. Just go big. She has a little reminder in there that says 'don't censor yourself.' When it got hidden, she said, 'oh yeah, I have to bring it back out again'."

Mykolyshyn added it's been nice to have someone with experience, who is "really good at coming in and offering an alternative, when I get stunted in some way. He'll ask, 'have you considered this or tried that?' and it's very respectful of what I'm trying to accomplish. It's not coming out of left field or anything. It's incredibly helpful. As a person who gets stuck a lot, it's really nice to have those nudges. It really accelerates things. If I didn't have that, I would probably be moving at a snail's pace."

She has also enjoyed interacting with the public, including other artists. "It's lovely to speak with other creatives and hear their feedback, but also learn about what they're doing; just a really good opportunity for connection."

Asked to describe the art she has been working on, Mykolyshyn said it is collage with a twist.

"I've always been into figure art, figurative distraction, erotic material. When I was younger, I really liked heavy metal magazines and images of women with swords, dragons, unicorns. Fantasy. Recently, I got my hands on some vintage adult magazines.

"I also fish. I hunt. I used to be an environmental technician. Somehow these two things seem to be merging; creating these creatures, removing the sex, and becoming creatures or deities.

"As a kid, I spent a lot of time in my room alone being creative. I would cut up my toys and Frankenstein them back together with glue. I'm kind of doing that now. It's fun. It's joy."

Jennifer Mykolyshyn works on collages at The Space. *Photo submitted.*

As for a first-ever solo art exhibition, she added, "it is weird for me but I'm excited about it when I think in terms of exposure and sharing and conversation and connection."

The exhibit:

Dream of Something Wild closing reception March 1, 6-8 p.m. (artist talk 7 p.m.) at The Space gallery, 173 Highland St. Unit B (underneath Redmans Records). It is an 18+ event due to some of the art content.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

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Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. March 5, 12, 19, and 26. Cost is $4 per player.
Cornhole at 7 p.m. March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.
HHHS social recreation March 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.
Fish n' Chips Fridays March 7 and 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.
Wings and jam session March 14 and 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.
Seniors 55+ lunch March 14 and 28 and noon. Cost is $17 per person
Meat draw March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.
LA Breakfast March 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is $10 per person.
Call the legion for more information at 705-448-2221.

EVENTS

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

Highlands Opera Studio has opened registration for live auditions for 2025 featured productions, with video auditions also available until Feb. 22. Casting is for The Merry Widow (all roles), Orfeo ed Euridice (Amore), independent study, and creative/composer-in-residence. Apply at auditions.highlandsoperastudio.com.

Fees for public skating programs have been removed at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, with admission by donation. Children nine and under are required to wear CSA-approved helmets. Check-in is required before entering the ice pads. Visit mindenhills.ca, or call 705-286-1260 ext. 554 for schedules.

Feb. 28, 1 to 3 p.m. Join us every PA Day this school year for a free family friendly movie screening at our Minden Hills, Stanhope and Dysart Library! This month we will be watching The Mighty Ducks. No registration required; all families welcomed. Movie is rated G.

March 1 and 2, it's the final weekend for the Minden Ice Races at the Minden Fairgrounds. Come out to experience some adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track. Spectator admission is free. Saturday start is 9 a.m., Sunday at 11 a.m.

March 4, 1 p.m. Do you love gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for a presentation from guest speaker Diana Westland, who will be discussing 'growing food from seed'. Monthly meeting to follow. New members welcome.

March 6, 1 p.m. Visit the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for a screening of the documentary Mighty Jerome, telling the story of Canadian sprinter Harry Jerome who represented his country at the 1960 Olympics before mounting an extraordinary comeback after a devastating leg injury in 1962. All ages are welcome.

March 6, 3 to 7 p.m. Job and volunteer fair at the Haliburton Legion, hosted by Fleming Crew. Explore career options, transition to a new field, re-enter the workforce, or gain experience and meet new people as a volunteer. Employment services such as job searching and resume writing also available.

March 8, 11 a.m. Visit the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a fun-filled book party celebrating If You Give a Moose a Muffin! Enjoy a special storytime, fun crafts and muffins. Registration is required, do so by calling 705-457-2241 or visiting haliburtononlibrary.ca. Event also taking place Mar. 15 at the Minden location.

If you have a community event happening send to mike@thehighlander.ca

What's on

Electric and unforgettable concert experience

By Lisa Gervais

Anna Morgan and Kip Kelly are being sponsored to attend this weekend's Winter Folk Camp. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

At just 14 years of age, Kip Kelly is excited about participating in this weekend's Winter Folk Camp.

The Grade 8 student started taking music classes when he was three years old, and continued to play piano with Lauren McInnes until he was 11. He then switched to playing electric guitar and has been taking lessons with Nick Russell for three years. He's sung with Beth Kipping's youth ensemble too.

Kelly, along with mom of four, Anna Morgan, have been selected by the Haliburton County Folk Society to attend the event for free.

Kelly reckons he will be the youngest in attendance, something he is used to at musical events in the County.

His goal is to "get better at guitar playing and improvising …maybe to get into songwriting." He is also intrigued at the prospect of learning from some new teachers.

Morgan's been involved in music since the age of 10. She plays guitar and piano and sings. She is taking piano lessons and would like to teach one day herself.

"I'm excited," she said of being selected. "I've heard there's some really good musicians that show up, so hopefully we get to learn some new skills."

Being new to the folk genre, she'd like to add to her knowledge. She's also keen to boost her songwriting experience. "I've been writing a lot of my own stuff so it will be really nice to get some tips and tricks on how to do it faster and better," she said.

The popular music event, now in its 14th year, sold out in four days after registration opened.

Eighty people will gather on the shores of Koshlong Lake at YMCA Camp Wanakita Feb. 28 - March 3 of music workshops, concerts, song circles, and jam sessions.

The camp generally attracts people from across southern Ontario, but 17 locals will be on-hand. It's presented by the folk society, which hires music instructors and performers. This year's roster includes Coco Love Alcorn, Cara Luft of The Small Glories, Rob Lutes, Caroline Brooks of The Good Lovelies, Katherine Wheatley, and Thom Lambert.

Lambert is the second local musician to teach at the camp, after Russell in 2023-2024.

"Their participation is testament to the state of performing arts in the Haliburton Highlands that boasts a rich community and tradition of presenting and performing music," the folk society's Barrie Martin said.

Local music fans can experience camp by attending one of the evening concerts. On March 1, Luft, Wheatley and Lambert will perform. Lutes, Brooks and Love Alcorn will grace the stage March 2.

"There is something incredible that happens at these concerts. The camp participants are well into their camp experience - high on music, so to speak, and when evening concert-goers arrive to listen, they are joining a very engaged audience. The results are electric; it will be an unforgettable concert experience," Martin said.

More information and a limited number of tickets are available at haliburtonfolk.com

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PROPERTY OWNERS - want to make some money? We are buying your birch, fir and pine. We pay, up to 50 cents per foot (Birch), up to 50 cents per lb (fir & pine). You process. Call John at 905-926-5538.

WANTED

WANTED VEHICLE - looking to buy a reliable vehicle, need to get from point A to B, 4x4 would be ideal. Will pay cash, call John at 289-686-6481.

WANTED – 40 ft Sea Container or 53 ft Tractor Trailer for storage. Delivered to Minden area at a reasonable price. Call 705-286-3823

NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Mondays - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist church. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

HOME & COTTAGE

NOTICES

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Free just need a desire to stop using. Addicts only. Haliburton meetings every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more info call 1-888-811-3887

NOTICES

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:

Three (3) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer(s)
DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required. Hourly rate is $27.47. Unionized CUPE position.

Two (2) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)
G licence and experience in manual labour positions required. Hourly rate is $20.56. Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Engineering (Seasonal) Student
G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required. Hourly rate is $25.47. Unionized CUPE position.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library is currently recruiting for a Communications Coordinator
This part-time position (28 hours per week) develops and implements strategies to increase the community's engagement with library services and provides admin assistance. Hourly wage range is $32.29 - $37.77.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 10, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came together to celebrate Howard **"Howie"** Robinson's life with us.

Your kind words, stories, and memories mean so much and will stay with us for years to come.

- Shawn, Matt and families.

... Thank you

OBITUARIES

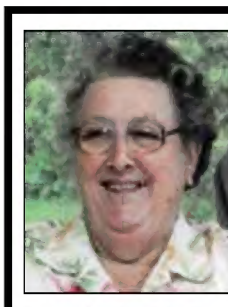
In loving memory

Ralph Hall Newton

Oct. 13 1941 - Feb. 18 2025

Passed away peacefully with his Son holding his hand, at Lionel Kelland Hospice in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL. Ralph will be remembered by Francine & missed by their dear Son Christopher & Granddaughter Caitlyn both from Botwood NL. He was the oldest of four siblings and will be missed by Catherine, the late Brian & Wayne. Prior to moving to Botwood Ralph lived in Minden & Hampton ON.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of life will be held March 1st at his residence in Lones Retirement Home, Botwood NL.



In Loving Memory of

Ann Coventry Barker

Former owner of Don Barker Heating and Cooling.

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Monday, February 17, 2025 at the age of 85.

Beloved wife of the late Donald (2014). Dear mother of Stephen (the late Barb), David (Jonothon) and Leeanna. Loving grandma to Curtis (Megan), Gavin (Sammie), William, Jennifer and great grandma Sienna and Terra. Fondly remembered by family and friends.

Ann and Don moved to Carnarvon in 1974 and purchased the Little Chick Inn owned it until 1979. Ann then operated her own catering business; many will remember her fantastic roast beef dinners at the Stanhope Fire Hall. She was on the Stanhope Council from 1982-2000 and acted as Deputy Reeve from 1988-1991.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Ann's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre. Interment at Maple Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Highlander classifieds

LAWYER

COULSON MILLS, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public
tel: 705.457.2977
fax: 705.457.1462
195 Highland Street,
2nd Floor - Box 648,
Haliburton ON K0M1S0
cmillslawyer@hotmail.com
www.coulsonmills.com

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CAS MATTERS
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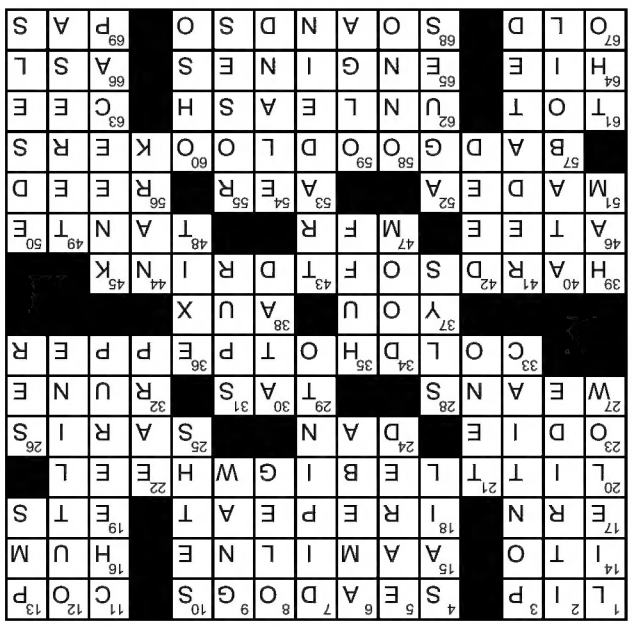
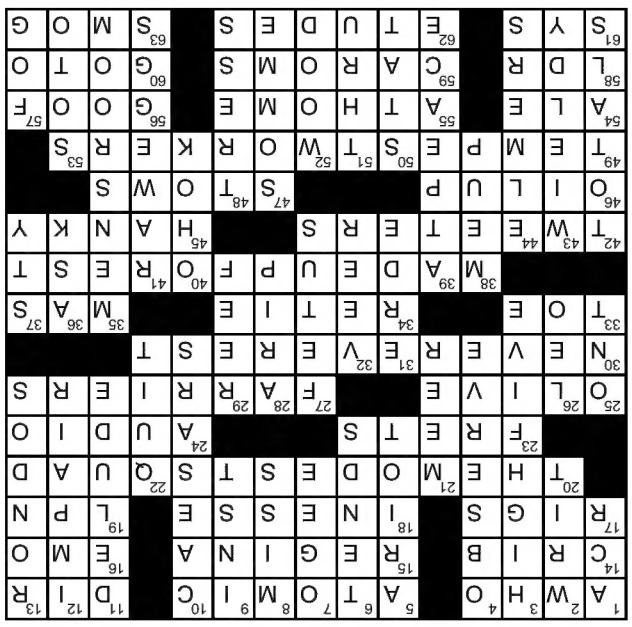
Courts: MINDEN • LINDSAY • PETERBOROUGH • BANCROFT

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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5	6	1	9	4	7	8	3	2

HELP WANTED

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER
Full Time Employment

Salary between $99,405 - $116,290

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our Public Works team in the role of our Environmental Manager.

The Environmental Manager will have expertise in environmental management and be able to provide sound recommendations for the municipality regarding programs, initiatives, best practices and policy in areas including waste management, energy conservation and environmental education.

A detailed job description can be found on our careers page:
www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers

Interested persons can apply by submitting a resume to Human Resources Manager, Sonja Marx by email smarx@dysartetal.ca no later than 12:30pm Friday March 14, 2025.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

heat-line® Freeze Protection Systems EST. 1988

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY

Heat-Line, a growing Canadian company located in Algonquin Highlands has new employment opportunities within the manufacturing team.

Manufacturing Technician duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, assisting with manufacturing operations, shipping and receiving of raw materials/ product, and inventory and product control. Applicants with prior experience in the assembly and manufacturing industry would be ideal.

This position may require standing for long periods and heavy lifting. This is a full-time opportunity, applicants are asked to send their resume to **tamara@heatline.com** or to, 1095 Green Lake Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M1S0. (705) 754-4545

Only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

HIGHLANDS EAST Yours to Explore highlandseast.ca

Highlands East Residents, Share Your Input with Us!

The Municipality is proposing to update the operating hours at the five (5) waste disposal sites within Highlands East. We have prepared a revised operating schedule for both summer and winter hours.

We would like to gather the opinions of many different community members as part of our consultation process. All feedback will be taken into consideration when finalising the proposed schedules. Your feedback is essential to selecting the operating schedule that best meets the needs of our residents.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey online here http://bit.ly/4hwDgTu or open your camera app and point at the QR code below and tap the link that appears after scanning.

SCAN ME

If you prefer to submit a hard copy survey, copies are available for pickup and completion at the Municipal Office located in Wilberforce.

Come work with Grounded this summer.

Join Grounded for a summer of hands-on learning at the vanguard of ecological landscaping.

This position offers a blend of outdoor and office work. You'll gain practical experience in natural garden installation while learning about native plants and naturalistic design.

To find out more, visit
groundedgardens.ca/summer-job
or email hello@groundedgardens.ca.

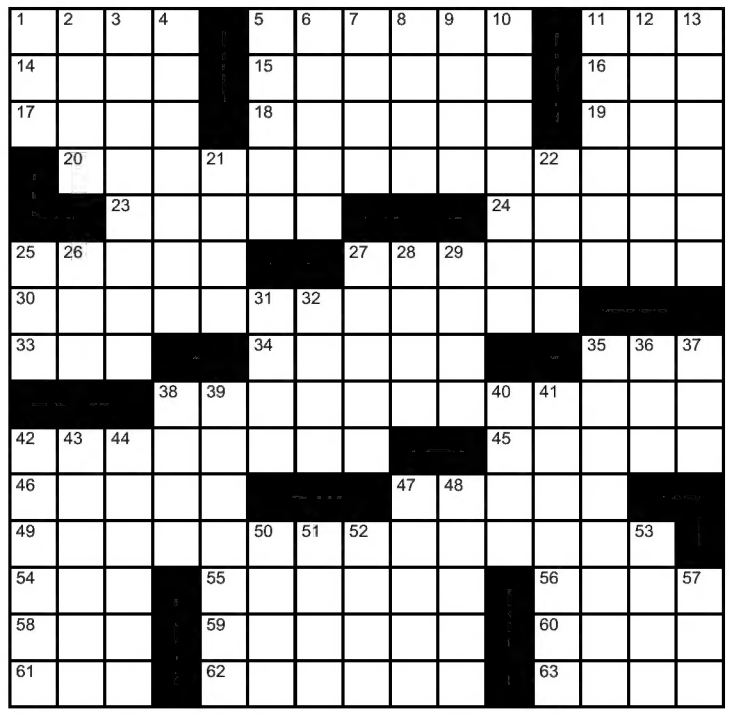
grounded GARDENING FOR LIFE

READ THE HIGHLANDER ... ANYWHERE.

Highlander puzzles

Wishing You All the Est

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 What Horton hears
5 ___ number (element's I.D.)
11 Film set VIP: Abbr.
14 Bed beneath a mobile
15 Saskatchewan's capital
16 Philips who said "I ran five miles today. Then I said, 'Here, lady, take your purse.'"
17 Roughnecks' worksites
18 Latin for "actually existing"
19 Medical aide, for short
20 TV show about a humble police team?
23 Worries frantically
24 What a headphone icon indicates
25 Stabbed martini garnish
27 Horseshoe fitters
30 "Climb the world's highest peak? When pigs fly!"?
33 Site of gout pain
34 Knot again
35 PhD precursors
38 Fictional woodland?
42 Woofers' counterparts
45 What a sobber might have up their sleeve
46 Prepare for a Musclemag photo
47 Stash, as cargo
49 Hired windstorm chasers?
54 Ginger ___
55 Working virtually, maybe
56 Flub
58 One in charge: Abbr.
59 Rebounding pool shots
60 ___ pot (deteriorate)
61 Pt. of "iOS" or "DOS"
62 Practise pieces, from the French for "studies"
63 Portmanteau of smoke + 57-Down

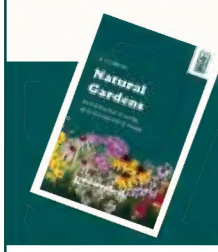
Down

1 Not dn.
2 ___ large (clearly)
3 Victorious hand slap
4 Respect, as a holy day
5 "You're ___!" (comment to a comic)
6 Is inclined (to)
7 Wavy molding
8 Muffet's address
9 The "I" of NAIT or SAIT: Abbr
10 Vodka and clamato cocktails
11 Lie, often to oneself
12 Render less effective
13 Sonata finales
21 Dutch painter Jan van der ___
22 Don't wait to be fired, maybe
25 Three east of Alta.
26 Singer Sayer
27 Midwife's wall diagram
28 "What ___!" (words to a gouger)
29 Coral-rich ridge
31 German "earth"
32 Swerve sharply
35 Lav for lads
36 Use a chatbot, say
37 Pig's digs
38 The Rolling Stones' "Start ___"
39 Resting easy
40 Reluctant agreement
41 Rocky's breakfast ingredients
42 Sales slip final figures
43 Easy to handle
44 Sticky alternative to Gorilla
47 French site of World War battles
48 Rapunzel's "ladder" for the prince
50 Athlete's bio bit
51 No ___ road
52 Sliver source, often
53 Pepys words before bed?
57 See 63-Across

Highlander sudoku
is sponsored by

grounded.
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Natural gardens
and shorelines
designed and installed



For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

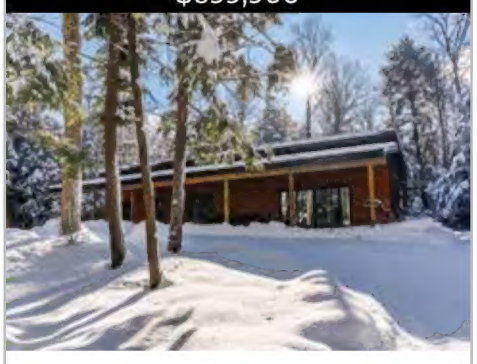
They often say it takes a village.

Here in Haliburton County, it takes a team.

GULL RIVER
$759,900

5X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X10434162

EAGLE LAKE
$699,900



2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X11823234

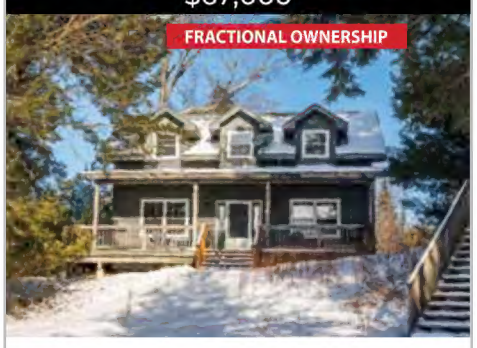
HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900

3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10437756

OAKVIEW CO-LIVING
STARTING AT $319,000

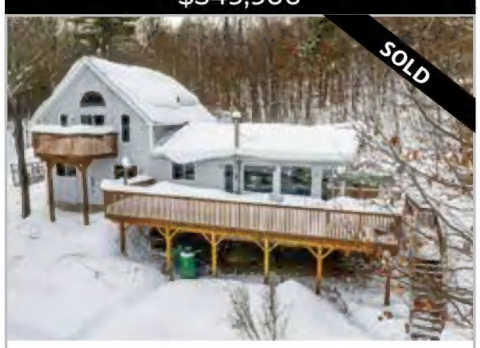
3 UNITS AVAILABLE
UNIT 1, 2 AND 4

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000



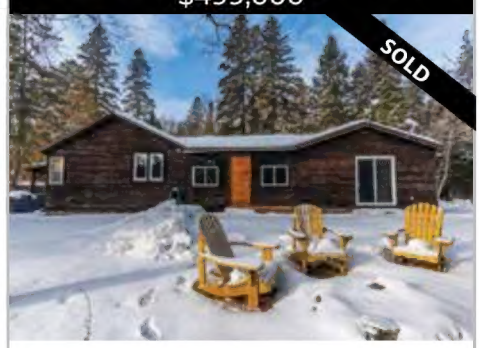
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11884689

KUSHOG LAKE
$549,900



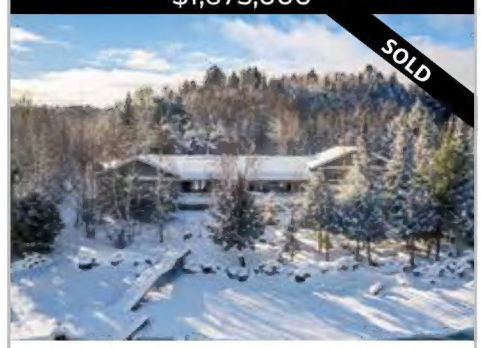
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11959957

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000



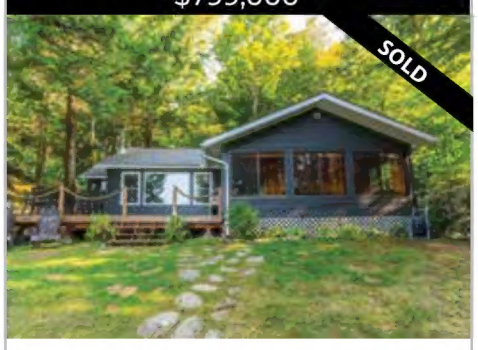
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10435688

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000



5X BED | 4X BATH | MLS X10436789

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000



3X BED | 1X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4X BED | 3X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3X BED | 2X BATH

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

3X BED | 1X BATH

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
VTB Available
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
$178,000
25 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

MLS X10437016

LT 49 Basshaunt Lake Road
$105,000
Eagle Lake
Vendor Take Back mortgage available
2.19 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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